THE REGIONAL LABORATORY FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH AND PLANNING

IMPLIED in the assumptions of a regional University center of social research and planning is the availability of the regional laboratory. This term must for the most part at present symbolize the need and the general concept of scientific work in the social sciences, rather than an actual specific working laboratory comparable to those of the natural sciences. Yet the regional laboratory as utilized by the Institute for Research in Social Science has actually consisted of three major levels. One is the South itself as the area from which materials are gathered and in which research is conducted. A second is the sub-regional laboratory of thirteen counties proposed as the central focus for as many concrete projects as practicable. The third is the physical laboratory and workshop and its correlated activities in Alumni Hall at the University of North Carolina. We may look briefly at each of these.

THE SOUTH AS A GENERAL LABORATORY

In using the South as a term for the general living laboratory for regional research and development, there is ample precedent and urge. For instance, when Columbia University set up its Department of Sociology the recommendations submitted emphasized the importance of the City of New York as a great laboratory for the study of human society. The City of Chicago has often been designated as the laboratory for the pioneering work in human ecology of the Department of Sociology in the University of Chicago. In North Carolina, President Edward Kidder Graham not only popularized the University but made its work increasingly dynamic by referring to the State as the University's campus and laboratory.

In its efforts to make its research realistic the Institute for Research in Social Science at the University of North Carolina added the principle of providing that most of its study and research be done in the southern regional area which it chose as its over-all laboratory. Its policy provided for *planned cooperative research* in this laboratory rather than merely individual research in the history and theory of cultures or in areas of foreign relations, no matter how important. One of the first contributions of the Southern Regional Study was to delineate scientifically the Southeast

THE REGIONAL QUALITY AND BALANCE OF AMERICA

WE RETURN now to our starting point in regionalism as reflected in the first principles of Americanism. A part of the American dream of equal opportunity has always been soundly bottomed in the great range and variety of that part of the North American Continent which came to be known as the United States of America. It was in the regional quantity and quality of this Continent that the first plantings and the later fruits of American democracy set the incidence of the American way of life as distinctive from that which had gone before or that which was European. This regional nature of America was both physical and cultural and set the stage for a nation that was to be strong because of the successful integration of its great diversities in which its supreme task was to be the achieving of a realistic and adequate regional balance of America.

It follows, therefore, that the way of the South, as the way of any region, is the way of America. By the same token, the way of America is the way of its regions, explored, developed, conserved, and integrated into the unified fabric of the total Nation. Whatever America might have been under different conditions, this is the way America grew; this is the way America is; this is the way of America forward. Just as the greatest strength of America is inherent in its well developed and well balanced diversity of regions, of resources, of peoples, and of culture, so the heart of American democracy is found in the freedom of opportunity, the richness and uses of resources, the development and welfare of the people, within the framework of this diversity and an increasingly effective national government of federated States and regions.

Yet, within the framework of regional diversity may be found not only the historical pattern of national development and strength but also measures of national weakness and undeveloped potentialities alongside the tragedies of sectionalism and the wounds of civil war which have not healed in three generations. Inherent in the waste and weakness of any of the Nation's regions, in the conflict and lack of unity of its peoples, and in hazards of regional imbalance and pathology, are still lurking dangers and dilemmas capable of swelling to floodtide mass emotion, confusion and revolution in the immediate postwar modern world and after.

It must be clear, therefore, that even in normal periods of American development a key problem was always that of the regional quality and balance of America. It was so in the beginning of the great frontier expansion of uneven and unplanned development and exploitation. It was true in the earlier colonial days of pre-North and pre-South in the Nation; it was true in the post-Civil War period of the rapid multiplication of fortunes and the concentration of wealth; it was true in the heyday of the 1920's when the Nation reached its crest of achievement in the quantitative attainments of peacetime civilization. Since then the depression years of the 1930's, the early period of World War II and after have greatly accentuated the importance of planning anew for the regional balance of America. For one thing the increased tensions in matters of the Negro and race segregation and in areas of levels of living and labor organization have revivified the sectional conflict between "South" and "North" to such an extent that we have referred to this problem alone as "shadows over America." The problems of defense and war production early emphasized the importance of decentralization of industry and wealth and of reworking a master plan of transportation to insure adequate distribution. And the global situation with reference to minority peoples, races, and nationalities, has finally made clear the organic significance of this regional quality and balance of people the world over.

The way of the South, therefore, is first of all American and, second, southern. The situation is always one of double responsibility on the part of both the Nation and the South. That is, the Nation's obligation is clearly twofold. One is to so coöperate and administer the ways of American democracy and economy as to help develop the South and the other is by so doing to enrich the Nation. The Nation owes the fullest possible development of the South not only to the South, but to the other regions and the Nation at large. No problem of regional development and planning can be a simple one-way problem.

In the same way the South's task in planning for its part in the regional balance of America is twofold. One is to develop itself and the other is to get along with the rest of the country and to become increasingly a major integrated region of the Nation. There is pathos in the fact that the South's chief deficiencies and tragedies have been

the result of its failure in these tasks. For its waste of resources, its failure to develop and conserve them for the enrichment of the people has resulted in vast handicaps. Yet the greater tragedy of war and continued conflict has also continued basic economic handicaps. In this search, therefore, for a better regional balance of America it is difficult to estimate which of the two tasks is primal or more fundamentally important—the development of the region or its integration into the national picture.

Clearly, however, the task is first of all a national one and a first essential is the recognition of this fact by the Nation and by the South and all the other regions. To understand the essential regional quality of America and of world problems and to translate the old sectionalism and separatism into the newer regionalism and unity clearly emerge as a *must* in the new era.

Something of the epic story of this earlier regional America may be recaptured through symbolism of America's Walt Whitman in "The Shapes Arise" or in some gigantic "Broadaxe" set to the building of a frontier nation. To sense anew the range of the incredible and swift-moving cavalcade of America "as the shapes arise" is to recapture the epic of the Nation's powerful heritage of resources set in the midst of every region and of every folk at work at every occupation in which "the main shapes" of democracy were made enduring because of the diversity of people, place, work, and wealth.

In the new regional balance of America, "as the shapes arise" there is recaptured again the powerful and colorful multiple meaning of the old "welcome" to new frontiers. "Welcome are all the earth's lands, each for its kind."

> Welcome, welcome, welcome.
> Lands of pine and oak
> Lands of lemon and fig
> Lands of gold
> Lands of wheat and maize
> Lands of sugar and rice

and all the other lands of grape, and cotton, and white potato, and sweet potato, measureless grazing lands and tablelands, lands of orchards and flax, of honey and hemp. And "welcome just as much the other more hard-faced lands," of mines, of the manly and rugged ores, of copper and coal, of lead and zinc, of iron and tin. And equally again,

> Welcome are mountains, flats, sands, forests, prairies,
> Welcome the rich borders of rivers, tablelands, openings,

Yet more, for "the shapes arise" as of the folk, too, as of those who sought, and seek again, New England and found it or Virginia and the Carolinas or the Deep South and on westward. Or those who found the waters of the Mississippi or of the Red River or deeper south on the Rio Grande; or north again by the Colorado or up beyond by the Northwest's Snake River valleys or the widening thousand-miled Columbia or by Willamette; or again back down by Death Valley and the desert lands and back again to the California Redwoods; and then eastward back again to mountain plateau and great plains and great lakes; and on to great eastern woodlands and mountaintops; and in the way places across a continent by springs and rivers and valleys and back to Appalachia that looks down to the sea. But always the folk and always "Welcome" and ever "the shapes arise." Yet of many shapes, one; of all shapes, America,

> The main shapes arise
> Shapes of democracy total, result of centuries.

First of all, it must be recalled that realistic Americanism was grounded in the physiographic measures of the Continent and in the adaptation of the people to the places where they lived. This was true not only because of the extraordinarily wide range and kinds of natural phenomena but because of the sheer size of an America in which all Western Europe, so to speak, could be lost in her mountain fastnesses or river valleys or great plains. In this happy convergence of a superabundance of natural wealth and human wealth was to be found the measures of both the Nation's extraordinary strength and power as well as her growing pains and sectional conflict.

A full understanding of this physiographic America and her people might well be begun if the observer, flying at a reasonably low altitude, should approach the Continent from the Atlantic Ocean. He would see an extraordinarily rugged Atlantic coast line from which point he would fly over the eastern seaboard with its small rivers and valleys. He would then see the great Appalachian Mountain Region extending all the way from New England down into Georgia and Alabama. Then he would continue across broad flat plains, a thousand miles of middle America, drained by

great rivers, stretching from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. From here he would fly over the great range of Rocky Mountains and high plateaus from which again he would look down on valleys and snowcapped range of mountains and then his plane might drop abruptly to land along a California coast line, now smooth and now rugged, where he would join the Pacific Ocean. In the midst of these larger parallel regions of mountains, of river valleys, of plateaus, each of which became a frontier in American expansion, he would glimpse hundreds of smaller river valley regions and no less than seventeen major river valleys symbolic of the richness of all resources and power, of flora and fauna of the great American domain. This would be the physiographic regional picture of America as the lines would run north and south. Then, flying north to south over the same regions he would encounter crosswise east to west the great climatic regions and many of those environmental factors which were to so condition people of the United States as to divide them into "North" and "South."

If, then, the observer would return for a closer regional inspection of a great nation in which he would study the combination of the physical and cultural factors he might well start in the New England Northeast. Here he would see its great coast line and fisheries, ships and shipbuilding, industries and technological equipment, centers of urban culture and commerce, an abundance of colleges, universities, art and recreation, philanthropy and wealth, and the concentration of the melting pot population. As he flew south beyond Washington he would see a different sort of American culture, yet strangely uniform in the fabric of its highways and communication. Although there are growing cities, the main character of the culture would appear rural and agricultural where, however, the traditions of the Old South were being transcended by a new balance of agriculture and industry. Here would be lands of cotton and tobacco and millions of black folk growing up and apart. Passing still further southward he would see a great Gulf Coast line with resorts and new reaches in agriculture, balanced with live stock and truck crops and also prospective of new developments in South American commerce and perhaps in the discovery of oil and chemical industries to give new incidence to southern and northern balance of America.

On across the Mississippi to Texas and Oklahoma, he would be amazed at the great plains and their cotton farming, cattle raising, turkey ranches, tropical vegetables, and empire of oil contesting with each other as the rapid increase of cities and industries transform a frontier culture again into a youthful civilization of growing pains and immaturity of years. On then across the continuing fringe of Southwest through New Mexico and Arizona, and moving into San Diego and up the Pacific Coast he would find the most exotic "American" and "Un-American" culture in which the East and West of America and the East and West of the World meet. On up into Oregon and Washington and into the first reaches of Canada he would find a culture and economy of the Pacific Far West, extending from Southern California, reputed to have the highest standard of living of any region in the world. Thence again there would be the completion of the exploration starting east again over the great mountains and plains. Here would be seen the most remarkable examples of power and irrigation dams in existence, as well as the Nation's most notable federal parks and forests, mines of copper and of gold, great expanses of winter wheat lands, and grazing lands again with sparsely settled population. Back again eastward, the observer would slip into the great industrial urban Middle States vying with the East in the concentration of wealth and manufacturing and people but also holding steadfast to the agricultural and rural tradition of America. And in the upper reaches of this river valley with its cities and industries, its tributaries would blend with the east of the western Pennsylvania and West Virginia coal fields.

If, then, the observer wished to obtain a still more detailed view of his America, there could be another more intimate picture which might be had from a three-level travel and exploration review of all the great regions. He might begin with the great Pacific Northwest and move back eastward, retracting his route by railway and automobile as well as by plane. One level would be by plane to circle over and along the great Columbia River country from its upper Canadian borders to its Oregon and Washington developments, mirroring the almost incredibly powerful Grand Coulee Dam and other seemingly superhuman achievements of the world's greatest engineering feats in which new waters may make over lands for a million folk. Yet no air view

could be adequate to note the wealth of detail. Another level, therefore, is needed, namely, to go by train and observe more closely. Yet, more still is needed and a third level of travel would be to drive by automobile with such stopovers as might be desirable. From such survey could be gained a knowledge of realistic regional potentiality by adding up the meaning of all this in the totals of what regional resources and development may mean to the strength and unity of America if adequately integrated into the national culture.

And so for the other regions. For instance, such a three-level picture of the Great Plains and of the old area of the Dust Bowl, as reflected in the planning and decentralization of a war period, would reflect an amazing picture of what can go into the regional balance of America. Or again, preview to a new Missouri River Valley development would be an intensive review of the South with its Tennessee Valley, its Appalachian and Piedmont regions of industry and cotton and tobacco, its Black Belt or its deep South along the Gulf and back up the Atlantic. In such a three way level of observation of all the American regions would inhere both the facts necessary for understanding and the assumptions for planning based upon the essential needs for better balance and equilibrium between and among all the parts of America and all the levels of life.

There are still other ways in which we can sense the regional quality of America and the need and opportunity to harness its power and integrate the component parts into a still stronger and better balanced Nation. One way is through an understanding of its rivers and river valleys. And one way to approach that is through the biography of the rivers of America. As were the rivers, so were the people as they won their way in the new America and as they formed their character and fixed their loyalties. This was true whether it be in the little river valleys of a Sweetwater, Tennessee or in the composite Tennessee River Valley with all its tributaries bringing in the waters and the folk alike to the powerfully vibrant total. It is true of the tiny little creek valleys of mountain folk where their highways and creek bottoms and their names and community spirit coincided in the patterns of folk culture and identification. It was true in the big and powerful rivers, the Missouri and the Ohio, the Columbia and the Mississippi. It was true in the twenty-four rivers selected for the "Rivers of America Series" by Farrar and Rinehart for their notable literary contributions to the understanding and enrichment of America. As it was told by Constance Lindsay Skinner, "It is as the story of American rivers that the folk sagas will be told." And in this effort to "make a whole interpretation of a few American folk" as symbolized in river localities, there is the "greater adventure, namely a composite study of the American Folk as a Nation." There could be multiplied many times the saga of the twenty-four rivers symbolized by *Kennebec: Cradle of the Americans; Upper Mississippi: a Wilderness Saga; Sewanee River: Strange Green Land; Powder River: Let'er Buck;* "history warmed by love of spacious country."

Another way in which it is possible to understand this America through its rivers is to measure the length and breadth and power of its great river valleys as integral regions of this Nation of regions and folk. There is the picture of the Tennessee Valley with its TVA as "Democracy on the March"; or the winding Columbia, upper of Canada and Washington; lower of Washington and Oregon and the Pacific, merging with the Willamette and its lesser tributaries. There is the wide expanse and the long turning of the Missouri and its prospective MRA, to match Tennessee's TVA. In these river valley regions are measurable units of culture and economy, susceptible of scientific study and planning, contributing to the diversity and unity of the American scene. A great Ohio river valley, encompassing so much from Dayton, Ohio to Dayton, Tennessee, must surely represent the need and symbol of unity because of the very diversity of its culture and people. Yet it must somehow be symbol of the regional distinctive quality and variety of the folk themselves because of the many States whose tributary it is. Such a valley, therefore, is not only measure of economy and problem; symbol of folk and nation; but also problem for central administration of government balanced with State and regional priorities.

And so are the other major river valleys, each and every one designated by the National Resources Planning Board as basic areas for water planning and river drainage problems. There were seventeen of these American river valley regions estimated to approximate one measure of the regional quality and balance of America. These regions were designated as the major river valleys of New England, the North Atlantic, the

Middle Atlantic, the Southeast, the Tennessee, the Ohio, the lower Mississippi, the Western Gulf, the Southwest Mississippi Basin, the upper Mississippi-Red River, the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence, the Missouri Basin, the Colorado, the Great Basin, California, the upper Rio Grande, and the Pacific Northwest.

The regional diversity of America may also be understood through a knowledge of what has usually been called the metropolitan regions of America, in contrast with the rural regions of the Nation. In the urban picture may be found also prevailing trends of population and industry, measures of unevenness and imbalance, and areas of conflict, as between labor and agriculture, the consumer and agricultural producer, and evidence of the need for both economic and cultural balance. For in many ways urban centers drain the hinterlands and exploit the folk and resources of the rural regions and set the incidence for inequalities of culture and opportunity. The total urban quality of the Nation may perhaps be observed best in two ways. The one is to examine the one hundred metropolitan districts as classified by the census into areas of more than 100,000 population. The other is to analyze the two great industrial-urban regions of concentrated population and wealth in the Northeast and in the Middle States regions, in both of which the dominant power of urban and organized America finds its greatest expression.

Still another approach to the understanding of the regional quality of America may be found in the historical aspects of regionalism. For, in order to understand the premises and need for this regional balance of America, and still more especially the South's rôle in its attainment, we have to go a considerable way back into America's experiences. For our main assumptions are that the promise and prospect of the Nation in the future, and more specifically the South, are to be found in the substitution of a genuinely realistic regionalism for the older historical sectionalism, which featured separatism, isolationism, competitive States and economy, and political pressures and conflict. Yet the very need makes it all the more important to understand the nature and power of the earlier American conditioning.

First, of course, was the American frontier on the several regional levels already indicated in the way of the South as the way of the frontier and its influence upon the character of American culture. There were two fundamental aspects of this, both partially conforming to the Frederick Jackson Turner concepts of American history, but with adequate variations to "prove the rule." The first of these was the conclusion that in the process of adapting to a new geographical environment, the economic, social, and psychological demands made upon the pioneers resulted in the creation of new culture patterns which progressively became more American than European. But, unfortunately, this frontier culture set the incidence for something that was also reminiscent of European conflict, namely, American sectionalism, the significance of which "in American history is that it is the faint image of a European nation and that we need to reexamine our history in the light of this fact. Our politics and our society have been shaped by sectional complexity and interplay not unlike what goes on between European nations. The greater sections are the result of the joint influence of the geologists' physiographic provinces and the colonizing stocks which entered them. 'We must shape our national action to the fact of a vast and varied Union of unlike sections.' " The types of American sectionalism which have grown out of these premises include: First, the conflict of the North and South, which James Truslow Adams called "America's Tragedy." Next was the conflict between New England and the West, followed by a conflict between the urban and the rural, and subsequently there has been continuous secondary conflict between different geographic areas and between States.

The essential framework through which both sectionalism was evolved and upon which the new regionalism must be built had its genesis in the ever-expanding series of frontier-regions commonly designated as "wests" in American expansion. The first wests represented the approaches to the Appalachians prior to the breaking over to the real wests. These were movements from eastern New York and Pennsylvania toward the western part of these States, and subsequently the great southwest trek to the State of Franklin and towards western North Carolina and Tennessee, followed by the next westward movement which represented the exploration of Kentucky through the Rayburn Gap and similar overflow behind the Appalachians.

A next western frontier represented movements into Ohio and preliminary approach to a next great westward movement, which might be termed the

great Northwest, moving up toward the Great Lakes and to the Mississippi River. Still another series of frontiers reflected the westward movement toward Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and technically then the Louisiana Purchase area, and later came the great exploration of the Mormons and others across the Mississippi and the more or less isolated continuation of the westward movement. Then came the great Oregon trail and the California gold rush, followed by a rebound from the Far West and a revival of the westward movement to the Northwest into the Northern Great Plains. Following these, then, were the great southwestern movements to the Plains, including Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma.

Then, too, the historical development of the concept of regionalism helps to interpret the total picture. Perhaps the first of these in the order of historical priority was what was generally called a *cultural* and *literary regionalism*, in which differing groups of people, their culture, folkways, and institutions were described as definitive indices of homogeneity. This was little more than localism and conformed to the earlier sectionalism. Such a regionalism, however, has been richly documented and has a distinguished background. Next perhaps was *metropolitan regionalism*, which was a logical outgrowth of the rise of urbanism and the subsequent extension of the cities into suburban areas, which, with the multiplication of cities and the concentration of population, gave rise to two trends, namely, decentralization of residential and industrial activities and the comprehensive planning and widening inclusion of metropolitan districts. Such a regionalism, like literary regionalism, was primarily local and was focused upon the improving of a situation within given areal concentrations.

Next perhaps was what might be called the *regionalism of convenience and organization*, in which business concerns, industrial corporations, banking organizations, chain stores, educational and religious associations all found it convenient to break the great country down into divisions for practical purposes of distance, size, decentralization, and organization. This regionalism of convenience and organization naturally was a forerunner to a main type of American regionalism, namely, that of *administrative regionalism*. As a major division and movement this was primarily in the field of governmental administration, in which the Nation has been variously divided into areas, corps, districts, regions, zones, and many other terminologies growing up until more than a hundred and thirty such areal divisions have been designated by various governmental agencies for administrative purposes. Samplings are legion, such as the earlier army area corps, the federal reserve banking system, and scores of more recent New Deal administrative subdivisions, such as FSA, WPA, etc.

Finally, a very specialized combination of physiographic, economic, cultural, and administrative regionalism is that in which the Tennessee Valley Authority explores the possibilities of regional planning within specific geographic areas for both cultural and economic development and as strategy for river valley regional planning in harmony with the States and regions and Nation.

One of the best testing grounds for understanding this regional quality of America is the exploration of what the people of the several regions know about and think about each of the other regions.

> Everyone knows this land of ours:
> Sing, "My Country, 'Tis of Thee"

or

> "God Bless America"
> Everyone knows this land of ours,
> And no one knows it.

This is peculiarly true of the younger generation whose knowledge and experience leave a wide gap between general political history and modern ideological principles and philosophy set in the midst of a busy world of specialisms. This was vividly explained in one way by Constance Lindsay Skinner in the statement that, "If the average American is less informed about his country than any other national, knows and cares less about its past and about its present in all sections but the one where he resides and does business, it is because . . . few about have displayed to him the colors and textures of the original stuff of American life; or made him comrade of the folk."[1] Out of this ignorance one region of another grow conflict and misunderstandings and failure to realize on the powerful factors of union in diversity.

Yet after all the greatest evidence of the regional quality of America is found in the cultural

[1] See concluding section in each of the volumes of the *Rivers of America* series by the general editor, Constance Lindsay Skinner.

quality to loyalties within each great region. And how the people love their own regions and criticize others! "Where I come from" is still the perennial proverb for excellence. From a multitude of Southerners: "I hope I shall never have to live outside of the South long. I have enjoyed California and the Middle West and I love New York, but I don't want to live there." And of the windy great plains of the Northwest one writes: "I loved the fabulous sunsets, lakes of gold and the dreamy purple mountains." From the multitudes who love California, some would be found as "seekers of health, sunshine, change, beauty, rest; shunners of toil, care, routine and tumult; haters of closed walls, and lovers of the open air, and others, just Americans demonstrating that East and West do meet—East and West of America, East and West of war." And from New England, soldier boys temporarily in the South: "I want to go back where one can really live. I don't see why anybody would want to live in the South." And from the South, soldier boys: "I don't see why anybody would live up here in this God-forsaken Michigan winter—I want to go home." Or "Deep in the Heart of Texas" may be a symbol of all the regional romance of America. Or one writes, "It is easy to see why Lee loved Virginia so much." Another calls attention to the fact that New England assumed her culture to be most American because they defined American culture in terms of what New England had.

In his story of the *Upper Mississippi: A Wilderness Saga* Walter Havighurst has featured the regional quality of the folk. What he says of that region applies equally to the South in different measures or to any other region. "There is," he wrote, "a stamp that a country puts upon men's faces and upon their speech, and, more mystically, upon their minds. Not by coincidence did Stefanson and Lindbergh, Garland and Turner and Veblen, come from the same great prairies above the Mississippi. Their work has an affinity which makes it a single contribution, repeated in their separate fields of adventure, in earth and air, in vision and in thought. Imagination and will were required of pioneers in that wilderness. It is no accident that the Middle Border produced men resolute and original whose minds have started rivers of new thought that are enlarging still.

"Prairie men, these all saw space in their youth and lived amid tasks bounded only by the horizon. They walked toward the sky. Later, they had no fear of space—not of blank miles of ice, not of blue oceans and blue air, not of spacious ideas that swing arcs of power over the slow thought-world of tradition. Like the homestead seekers, they feared confinement more than hazard. There is a nostalgia that America knows for tasks that come only to a first generation and are not now recoverable. But the wind still blows over the prairie where the grass bent under the wagon wheel and then sprang up again. And the prairie mind still holds the instincts of horizon-land, impatient of boundaries, questing, impelled by an old need and led by purposes forever new."

All this means simply that the way of each region is the way of its culture and that each culture is inseparably identified with its regional character. This is not only nothing new but has always been recognized as a definitive part of understanding peoples and their institutions. It has always been recognized by the common people in their loyalties and devotion to their own customs and institutions and in their criticism of others. It has always been recognized by anthropologists and sociologists in their study of cultures. Regional attitudes and mores are so definite and powerful that they constitute rights and wrongs; they determine the nature of behavior and institutions. Intolerance, therefore, of the mores of a people reflects narrowness and provincialism of outlook.

In the United States there has recently developed an increasing tendency among urban intellectuals to belittle and to characterize as bad many of the mores of rural America and nearly all of the ways of the South. This would be inevitable since the types of culture differ so radically. Manifestly, however, this is one source of conflict and imbalance in the Nation, the conflicting part being unnecessary. And there is an increasing tendency on the part of the North and the South to evaluate their own attitudes and behavior highly and for each to discount those of the other, without understanding them. This reflects a strange backwardness in an age of communication and intellectual liberalism. The depth and width of the growing chasm and the reasons for it would be unbelievable if the situation were not actually true.

This regional quality of culture, behavior and institutions is, of course, as universally applicable to all regions of world society as to the United

States. The recognition of this regional quality of world society, of its imbalance, and of the need for regional arrangements for world organization and peace, while relatively new, is rapidly becoming the basic consideration in nearly all plans for stabilizing world organization. Symbolic of the swelling tide of regionalism is the conviction of Sumner Welles "that an effective international organization can be constituted only through the creation of regional systems of nations . . . under an overall international body representative . . . of all regions." But in whatever instance the point of emphasis is that it is through coöperative arrangement and the integration of diversified cultures that strength and stability are to be found.

* * *

Now, all of this is of the utmost importance if we are to sense the urgency of this problem of the regional quality and balance of America and the rôle of the South in the future development of the Nation. For in our assumption that the South is the chief testing ground for American regionalism and American democracy we have assumed also that its problems are more difficult and varied and that it has inherited a larger number of handicaps than other regions. This explains why the South must devote itself more earnestly to its regional development than other regions, and why, by the same token, the South seeks the way of reasonable national coöperation. There is no other way. The South is as it is. It is the only South we have. The Nation is as it is. It is the only Nation we have. There must surely be some way of attaining this better balance and equilibrium.

This means, again, that the oft-recurring basis upon which we seek to understand and develop the new way of the South in the Nation must be bottomed in the *new American regionalism* in contradistinction to the *old American sectionalism*. It assumes that the balancing of men and resources in the major regions of the United States is no longer a matter of generalities or of ideology alone. It assumes a science of the region in which there is agreement upon the delineation of a reasonable number of major composite group-of-States regions, through which actual planning may be done where men live and work. This means accordingly that planning is not just a matter of words and items, but of realistic action close to reality and in priority schedules of time, place, and relationship that have to do with each actual job to be done. *Repeat and repeat, regionalism and regional planning are set forth as tools to provide precisely the definite, specific, workable ways of attaining concretely what is generally advised in contradistinction to mere ideology and education or again in contradistinction to sectional rivalries and conflict.*

Such a science of regionalism affords uniform measures upon which all can agree, and thus it becomes a tool for attaining balance and equilibrium between people and resources, men and machines, the State and the folk. It is a tool of the democratic process in that it provides for the redistribution of the good things of life and of the opportunity to work within the framework of every people's geography and of their inherent cultural equipment. It is a tool for democratic world reconstruction in the postwar world, because it is through coöperative regionalism rather than economic nationalism that the society of tomorrow can be organized for human welfare instead of for military achievements. It is a tool for social planning, because it takes into consideration the rights, privileges, resources of people and areas, and stresses self-government and self-development as opposed to coercive centralized power. It is a tool for social planning, also because it offers specific technical workable ways of developing and conserving resources for human-use ends.

Since regionalism, as the opposite pole of sectionalism, isolation, and separatism, is as true of international as well as of national affairs, it wants no self-sufficiency in economy. It wants no isolationism and separatism. There can be no region except as it is a part of the total Nation or of world society, each region being a constituent unit in the whole, and the wealth and welfare of the total measured through the integration of the wealth and welfare of each. By the same token each region can be enriched and developed only through the principle of national coöperation and representation set in the framework of both governmental and voluntaristic effort.

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Such a regionalism is insurance against any economy which allows for the "haves" and the "have nots" in areas of American democracy. This is exactly what exists in the South today and what a surprising number of "scholars" have

assumed must continue. There could be no justification in a well integrated American democracy for a system or set-up of public administration and philosophy which would assume the perpetuation of weakness, deficiency, and poverty in one region alongside strength, efficiency, and abundance in another. The whole situation is especially tragic when pathology and deficiency are assumed as permanent traits of a region with great potentiality of resources. It would be unbelievable if it were not true that such a framework of American democracy should come so near the realization. Regionalism, therefore, both strengthens the economic total of the Nation and avoids conflict, on the one hand, and prevents the necessity for special relief, special differentials and privileges, on the other. And, of course, it features the American credo of self-adequacy and mastery over environment.

As it relates to the universally desired redistribution of wealth and opportunity, regionalism provides the only way for such an enduring and effective redistribution by creating in each region the capacity to produce and use wisely wealth which comes from the development and utilization of resources and men within the framework of the region and the equipment of the people. This is essentially the key to the regional balance of man everywhere in which the goal is a better equilibrium between men and full resources and between men and situation, communication and transportation. This is the way to utilize science and technology in the mastery of man's problems.

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The enrichment of each region, in addition to the development and use of its resources, training of its people, and the balance of its industry, contributes powerfully to the wealth of the Nation, which wealth, in turn, from Federal sources may be used in coöperative and equalizing funds for leadership, research, training, and planning essential to the democratic processes of State and regional representation. The way to train youth, for instance, and to guarantee security and reality for the American army of the new generation; to raise standards of living, to insure equal opportunity and security is to develop regional capacities and programs and to work out interregional optima rather than draining some regions for others or concentrating abnormal situations subversive to the development of a great unified Nation.

So, too, the way of defense and the way of a strong Nation in time of war is essentially in the multiple strength of all regions, each providing its part in the Nation's total and in particular to guarantee the national reserves essential for permanent defense and permanent prosperity. Such a power of regional decentralization, yet of national order, was brilliantly illustrated in the way in which Russia's strength was deployed against Germany. The way to effect a wholesome decentralization of wealth, of power, of people is explored through the regional balance of men and resources, but always with the national integration and unity of a strong people as the first concern.

On the other hand, if there is any way to prevent totalitarian overcentralization of power, it is to provide safeguards and guarantees in a sound regionalism bottomed in the American principle of geographic representation and the balance of power of the people. Furthermore, if there is any way to safeguard the American ideals of democracy of the folk and to prevent the rule of persons rather than of the rule of laws and constitution, it is through this continuing equilibration which comes from the regional balance of wealth, of control, of population, all in turn balanced with land and resources developed within the framework again of balanced communications, transportation, and exchange which makes possible the best adjustment between the people and their total heritage and environment. Here is the essential consistency of the ideals and strategy of a strong centralized government and planning to the end that there may be power and resources adequate to guarantee a strong and effective decentralization.

James Truslow Adams in his latest interpretation of the United States in *The American*, in which he seeks to define America in realistic terms, "strikes the first snag—unity in vast diversity." Yet so far from being merely an obstacle, this is in reality the explanation for the genuine liberalism which is America on all its levels of historical time, geographical regions, and cultural development. But especially the historian emphasizes the fact that "to learn what a man is you have to know a lot about his background and life." To this end he insists that "we shall have to go a long way back and follow the American through his experience and consider the influences which have been operating to make him what he is." This is especially true in the case of American

regionalism, in which it is necessary perhaps to go even further back to understand how all societies grow out of the folk-regional culture. All this is doubly important because of the prevailing ignorance of history on the part of the American people and because of the failure to understand the backgrounds of American regionalism. And it is of critical importance in the new tendency toward the revivification of the old seeds of sectionalism in America and of the crisis that grows more ominous under the strain of world conflict and dilemma.

The rediscovery of the regional power and glory of America, however, through literary and historical portraiture is not all of the problem of attaining the desired regional balance. Although an understanding of the historical and cultural backgrounds and meaning of regionalism is fundamental, the problem is essentially a contemporary one of study and analysis on the one hand and of planning for the future, on the other. This involves measures of imbalance and a continuous redefinition of balance to meet the flexible needs of a rapidly changing economy and culture. Implied in the definition of balance are many factors besides the technical one of a balanced economy, such as we have already described. The heart of the problem is found in search for equal opportunity for all the people through the conservation, development, and use of their resources in the places where they live, adequately adjusted to the interregional culture and economy of the other regions of the Nation. The goal is, therefore, clearly one of balanced culture as well as economy, in which equality of opportunity in education, in public health and welfare, in the range of occupational outlook, and in the elimination of handicapping differentials between and among different groups of people and levels of culture may be achieved. In so far as the South is concerned, one way of sensing the full meaning of imbalance is in terms of the measures of inequality.

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Yet this problem of balance and equilibrium is not all a matter of balanced economy and culture within the region. It is also a matter of adjustment and interregional balance with other regions in so far as it lies within the South's capacity to seek that balance. But also a large part of the imbalance has been due to deficiencies of national strategy in keeping the South as a colonial section whose participation in the Nation has been and is still often considered a privilege. Thus, the South has the double handicap of its own self-adapted sectionalism and the almost universal picture of cultural separatism which the rest of the country assumes to be the realistic South.

Furthermore, in so far as the lack of balance in the Nation is one of culture as well as economics, it reflects not only vast inequalities of education and welfare but lack of balance between urban and rural America, between majority and minority groups, and conflict between the East and the West, as well as North and South, between white and Negro, between capital and labor, between opposing groups of organized labor, between different classes in cities and in industries themselves. The lack of cultural balance includes overconcentration of population and pathology in the cities as well as in isolated population areas. It extends to the multiple national agencies in urban centers and is reflected in their conflicting ideologies and failure to agree upon elemental factors.

These measures of imbalance are all abundantly found in the South and have been described already in the catalogue of deficiencies which we have presented. In general the southern States rank in the lowest quartile in the statistical measurement of the most commonly used indices of adequacy so that the measure of need for balancing the region would be that of moving up into the second or first quartile or the equivalent of a hundred percent improvement in many aspects of regional economy and culture.

More vivid illustrations may be cited as basic to next steps in planning and development. For instance, there is no American university in the South either in its equal ranking with leading institutions in endowment, libraries, research or in the capacity to include in its curriculum, the attitudes and ideologies of the university education unhampered by race or creed or traditions or in the ability to secure and hold on its faculties the top scholars of the Nation. They are all southern universities. Furthermore, there is no one in the South well acquainted with the situation and realistically facing the facts who claims for any southern university full national character and no one who sees any prospect for such a university in the near future. More than this, it is generally assumed among all the university folk in the rest of the Nation, not only that the South

has no first ranking university, but that it can't have such universities. Southern university professors start, therefore, with this double handicap because of which they are expected to contribute to the South only and not to the Nation or the total of knowledge and learning. If it be said that the South does not want such universities and that the rest of the Nation does not want the South to have them, this itself constitutes eloquent evidence of the regional imbalance in this field.

If then it be said that this appears as a severe arraignment of the South which has made greater strides in education than any other region, and of the North which has contributed millions of dollars in philanthropic and coöperative efforts, as well as provided many of the educational leaders for the South, this again constitutes eloquent testimony to the complex nature of the southern regional culture in the national picture. For all of these are true in the total picture. Or again, if it be added that the South has a certain quality in its institutions which attracts thousands of students from other regions who continue to like the South, that again emphasizes all the more the lack and need of equal universities in the Nation and indicates what might be done in a well balanced plan for the interregional exchange of faculties and fellowships.

Again the South has no technological institutions of the first rank to train for research and leadership in agriculture, engineering, or industry. The South has none of the great research centers in industrial research or engineering research or in business or university research and it has a very small ratio of research workers in any field, although its needs are greater than other regions The concentration of research in a few regions. and the consequent neglect of its application to regional research and to the training and employment of youth reflects one of the most marked phases of imbalance. And this goes hand in hand with the poor uses of resources and the waste of many natural resources and the lack of opportunity for nearly half of southern youth in the culture and economy of the South as it has been and as it is now trending with the hazards of diminishing cotton returns.

It follows, therefore, that the greatest measure of imbalance is found in the development and utilization of human resources. Over against the need for more industry of the sort to employ millions more of workers better trained, there are too many agricultural workers inadequately equipped by training and farm economy and their income is out of balance with the rest of the Nation or with what is needed. This imbalance, however, has two sides to it. One is in the simple lack of balanced economy between agriculture and industry, and the other has to do with lack of a balanced agriculture itself. Or to put it differently, there might be too much good industry with too much poor agriculture over against a greatly increased, diversified agriculture balanced with increased industry but with the guarantee of parity for agricultural products.

How national planning might not contribute effectively to the regional balance of America and especially how it might militate against the South may be illustrated in two sample cases. There was, for instance, in the depression 1930's an earlier publication at the time when America's consumer purchasing power was scarcely more than sixty billion dollars prepared by a national planning agency looking toward full employment. In the program, recommended under the title "Resource Utilization," it was pointed out that when the total purchasing power of the Nation reached seventy or eighty billion dollars the Nation could give full employment to all of its employables. Yet it was stated that even if the total consumers' purchasing power should rise to ninety or ninety-five or even one hundred billion dollars there would be need for scarcely any increase in agricultural workers. As applied to the South with its great mode of farmer folk, it would thus come to pass that, when the rest of the Nation was reaching its peak of prosperity on the basis of industrial America, the South would be again, as in the 1920's, in depression straits with too little employment and having the necessity of paying high prices for commodities made on the basis of high prosperity. The original program not only failed to plan for the region and its farm populations, but on the contrary assumed that the logical thing would be for the rural folk to migrate to industrial centers, where already people were congested mainly in one or two regions.

This brings us to the second type of planning which accentuates regional imbalance and works to the detriment of the South. That is, the procedure which takes the youth from one region to another, trains them, and concentrates them in

the same urban industrial centers that already exist, results inevitably in the impoverishment of the region from which they are drained and is not a sound policy for the Nation or the region. Such programs fail to provide training and work opportunity for the youth of that region, and this inevitably results in deficiency areas. It assumes an uneven regional distribution in terms of "the have" and "the have-not" regions with the corollary that such regions can best be provided for through federal aid and should be expected only to come as near self-support as possible.

In the lack of balanced agriculture with its resultant inequality of opportunity for millions of southern youth, including the children of tenant farmers and the millions of youth employed in low-paying, unskilled factory work, the South is using its great reserves of workers at no more than half of their potentialities. Yet more specifically, the South is utilizing nearly a third of its labor resources, namely the Negro, at perhaps not more than a third of their full capacity both because of the lack of a balanced economy and because of the South's policy and tradition in the employment of Negroes. This means automatically, therefore, under the present premises that the South cannot expect a well balanced culture or an abundance economy comparable to what it is capable of attaining as compared with the national standard. The most distinctive measure of imbalance, therefore, is that between the white population and the Negro in which traditional unnecessary differentials infer discrimination, and lack of an adequate program of education and training have become insuperable handicaps to the attainment of a total southern economy and culture of which the South is capable.

Further measures of imbalance, as reflected primarily in the South itself, are found in the continuing sectional conflict and the emotional energies negatively expended by the southern people in the place of the devotion to positive programs and a better balanced work program. If it is said that the North's criticisms are often based upon lack of information and are often unfair and that there is growing up an increasing enmity toward the South, this again is added evidence of the complexity of the situation and of the nature of national imbalance.

If, then, it is said that all the other regions discriminate against the Negro and segregate him in all of the main avenues of life, that still has nothing to do with the handicapping effect of these practices in the South. If it be said with scientific accuracy that the people of any other region than the South would in all probability have acted exactly as have the Southerners had they been conditioned by the same environmental influences of climate, geography, economy, and culture, this still has nothing to do with the rightness and wrongness of the southern behavior. The same behavior would be the same right and wrong and would require the same correction and amelioration whenever it occurred. The fact that the total Nation is responsible and that there are obligations outside the South subtracts nothing from the reality of the South's opportunity and obligation. On the contrary it adds up again and again to a supreme challenge and offers a double prospect for success.

Within this total framework of the regional quality and balance of America in which it is not possible to separate the South from the Nation or the Nation from the South we must, therefore, proceed directly and concretely to the specific tasks which face the South and also the rôle of the rest of the Nation in regional development and integration. These tasks are essentially of two sorts: one comprehends the whole range of action programs, of doing things that need to be done, the necessity of which appears self-evident from a clear understanding of the South and its place in the Nation. The other comprehends the whole range of attitudes and beliefs and the reexamination of traditional premises upon which these beliefs are based. From our insistence that one of the first essentials of the Nation is a better understanding of all the facts involved, it is clear that the twofold nature of the tasks applies alike to the South and the rest of the Nation. Yet since it is the way of the South that we portray and the development of the South that we plan, our emphasis must necessarily be primarily upon the South and what its reasonable program will include. We begin with the action programs; with things to be done.

Again, within the framework of action programs needed there are two levels of approach. One is the general over-all planning program which comprehends the best in coöperative effort between governmental institutions and voluntaristic agencies; and the other is on the level of specific things to be done within the larger framework of planning. Manifestly, the first need is for the

over-all planning program that combines as many desirable features as possible. There must be specific but broad principles and practices of federal, State, and regional planning which will meet the needs for developing the Nation's great resources and for such adequate and equitable regional distribution of the essential good things of life as will insure a greater balance and equilibrium in the Nation for all of its people. The fact that we are primarily concerned here with the South means that there is need for even higher motivation and more harmonious agreement on next steps. These include an uncompromising allegiance to the framework of American culture, a more realistic understanding of regional factors and problems, a new and practical approach to the reintegration of agrarian culture into American life, a relentless search for a better balanced economy, and always back again to the conservation and development of our resources and the training and development of the people. And there is always the need for the long road of intellectual processes, hard work, technical skill, and a more realistic facing of facts than either the South or North has so far been willing or able to attain.

We have already outlined in the previous chapter an over-all regional planning program for the South. The adoption of some such program is the first essential for adequate regional development and balances such as we have shown to be necessary in the future successful life of the South. Perhaps the main reason that it is needed is the fact that this is the only way that the South can be brought to agreement among its own conflicting forces and to work with the Nation at large. Another reason for a definite federal, regional, State, and local planning arrangement under the auspices of governmental agencies is the fact that this is the only way that it is possible to work out a practical working relationship that will provide for increasingly rapid attainment of equality of opportunity for disadvantaged groups. It has been demonstrated many times that private and voluntaristic organizations, of which the South is a veritable graveyard, cannot do the job. On the other hand, programs, combining the agencies of State and city and county in coöperation with regional agencies working with federal coöperation acceptable to the people, can not only succeed but increase respect for government and enhance the whole program of democratic services. It is only through definite workable ways of doing things through State and regional planning that it is possible to incorporate programs for all the people, and especially for the equalizing of opportunity for Negroes. Through such arrangements respect for public administration may be accentuated at the same time that there is responsible action in the place of what is too often irresponsible agitation. Such an over-all program may become a medium through which recommendations of civic agencies and educational institutions may be tested and enacted and at the same time may initiate ways and means for inquiring into and carrying out any one or all of the action programs adjudged necessary. Manifestly, such problems as the poll tax or farm tenancy or equality of accommodations for Negroes and many other specific problems now being attacked through isolated agitation will come within the range of such regional planning.

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There are then many specific things to be done within the framework of the over-all planning program. High up in the catalogue is an inventory of total resources. There has been a growing unanimity of opinion among southern students, observers, and leaders in public life that the South's greatest opportunity and obligation now are found somewhere in the field of developing, conserving, and utilizing wisely and more widely her resources. If, therefore, we provide a program and procedure which will enable us to so develop and utilize our resources as to increase our wealth, enrich our institutions, and give prosperity and welfare to the people, we will be accomplishing the most and the best that can be done for the South at this time. If this is true, the greatest single need of the South, outside its Victory programs and its general leadership and development, is very clearly the application of science to industry, agriculture, and to the development and utilization of its great resources. The ends sought are that the young people may be better trained, that scientific research may be carried on, that this research may be applied to raw materials with a view to greater manufacturing use as well as to industry and agriculture itself, and that there may be forthwith programs which will render greater income to the people, increase employment, increase wealth, and give the South a well balanced economy.

Since the primary purpose of an inventory of regional resources is inherent in the assumption

of their development and wise use, it follows that a great increase in research and the training of research workers becomes a third major task inseparable from the second. For, in these areas of resource development and use the South reflects one of the most unfortunate examples of imbalance in the total national picture. For in no field of research does it excel. In every field of research it lags. Its deficiency here not only deprives its people of opportunity but also of wealth, and in addition contributes to an overcentralization of research in a few centers, adds greatly to the imbalance of the Nation, and limits the wealth of the Nation and the region.

In this South of tomorrow growing into its next great period of development, there are other aspects of its resource development and use that provide the basis for next steps. It is not only that there is needed a new inventory of total resources with new reaches of skills in research and invention to be applied to the development and use of natural resources, but there are two immediate opportunities that have to do with human resources. One of these is the more effective utilization of the people as workers, including their distribution and employment and including the very special aspects relating to the Negro people. The other has to do with the effectiveness of the schools in resource education and in training in elements of life that are basic to regional culture. The problem of the wiser use of the people and of their relation to a better regional balance of the Nation requires two separate approaches. One is the problem of employment and standards of pay and work in general for all the people, including again special attention to the employment of the Negro in the South. The other has to do with a planned redistribution and migration of the Negro throughout the other regions of the Nation.

With reference to the first aspect, planning and next steps are relatively simple in terms of the programs being worked out for the better training and equipment of youth, for the increase of industries which pay higher wages and turn out the more finished products, for the elimination of regional differentials, and for the special development of a balanced agriculture and adequate opportunity for youth on the farm. From the viewpoint of developing and using wisely natural and human resources together, there can be no doubt of the urgency, as a first task, of increasing regional industry to provide a new balanced economy and to bring new standards of equipment, of pay and of living to all the workers of the South. Symbolic of what is to be done and illustrative of what can be done is the record of three great southern industries that have already attained the highest rung in the national ladder. The first of these is the textile industry, if we take into consideration both its past achievements and what is even now already being planned for the immediate future. A second is the extraordinary record of tobacco production and manufacture with its national and international excellence. The third is the furniture industry which in some ways is the largest in the country.

Yet there is needed much more than these in the form of not only more industries but specialized types, such as chemical and processing industries, which will employ a larger ratio of skilled workers and will reward with more pay and with a larger increment of wealth left in the region. We have demonstrated that the South has the necessary natural resources; that the farmers are able and are more and more willing to produce the necessary increased variety of commodities; that the South has ample labor reserves and can train them; that there is a large reserve of capital wealth in the South available when the circumstances become favorable for investment. There is then need for leadership and what Harriet L. Herring emphasizes as "enterprisers" to do the job. There is, finally, the increasing need for developing our technological resources in the form of skills, tools, management.

In the total planning for new industry and wealth as basic to a better balanced economy and culture there is one major problem of increasing importance and difficulty. This is the problem of training and utilizing wisely the great labor resources of the Negro people. For here is a region where a fourth of its worker-resources have been utilized to scarcely more than a fourth of their possibilities and with the rapidly changing status and prospect of cotton which has been the basic field of work for Negroes, the prospects for the future offer still less promise unless there is special planning with reference to the new industrial development or for migration to other regions. In addition to this special planning there is need to plan wisely for the total situation as reflected in the problems of fair practices in labor and employment and the increasing hazard of competition in which many of the older occupations of Negroes will be taken over by whites.

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This brings us face to face with the other two action programs already mentioned, the redistribution of the Negro people in the Nation and the rôle of the schools in regional development. These are, however, also primarily programs that have to do with attitudes and tradition. We may, therefore, approach our second level of special tasks, namely, those having to do with regional and national attitudes, folkways and emotions, with these two problems. And, first is the problem of planned voluntaristic migration through which the Negro people may be more evenly distributed throughout all the regions of the Nation. This requires a master strategy capable of bearing the burden of a many-sided dilemma. There is not only the difficult task of balanced distribution of the people but also that of providing ways and means of educating and training the Negro in his new environment and the considerable problem of planning work for him to do before he is relocated for his training and education.

The assumptions of such planned migration are many. First, there is to be had the consent and coöperation of the rest of the Nation outside the South. Then, there is the consent and coöperation of the Negro people. But, finally, there is the consent and good will of the South. There are other assumptions on other levels of approach. One of these assumptions is that the increasing demand for the elimination of discrimination and segregation for the Negro in American life brings with it both the willingness and the capacity of the Nation to provide facilities when there is adequate wealth and will to make satisfactory arrangements, and when legal restrictions are not present. This means, in practice, the ascertaining of the answers to the questions of how many Negroes in what classifications of age, training, family equipment, can be wisely used in what regions of the Nation and in what capacities and through what procedures.

There are other complicated assumptions, perhaps four of which are fundamental to the first consideration of any such planned migration. The first of these is that it is not possible to approximate the balanced culture necessary to guarantee the Negro equal opportunity in America in any other way than through the migration from the South, to all other regions, of at least one-half the total Negro population in the South. A second assumption is that the rest of the Nation is sincere in its militant advocacy of equal opportunity and is willing to do its part in attaining the desired ends. Another assumption is that increased provisions for training Negroes and for setting up additional industrial opportunities can be made through national, regional, and State planning agencies much more economically for the Nation than the attempt at coercive military enforcement by the Nation of a non-segregation economy advocated by many agitators. And finally there is the assumption that the South, in the face of losing a large part of its Negro population and in the light of reduced numbers would provide facilities for equal opportunity or those who remain, would eliminate all unnecessary differentials between the races, and would modify its policy of segregation in many respects.

Now manifestly, so far as any immediate results may be anticipated, such a suggested program of planned migration can be little more than a way of vivid presentation of the complexity of the situation and the urgency of need, because of the lack of reality in nearly all of the assumptions stated. Yet such a program must be faced frankly and something of its equivalent must be planned if there is to be anything like balance and equilibrium in this area of Negro-white relationships in the United States and if stark tragedy is to be avoided in the wake of present trends. If, again, it be objected that the Negroes will not agree, that the various regions of the Nation will protest that they are not prepared, and that the South itself will not coöperate, this again is another way of indicating the difficulties and hazards in the way of the South in the Nation.

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In the drama of this way of the South in the Nation there is no way of hiding the fact that the supreme task for region and Nation in their search for a better regional balance of America is that of a better adjustment of race relations and opportunities with all of the implied obligations of both races and all regions. There is no way of overlooking the fact that the South's attitudes and behavior on most levels are wrong, judged from any general, abstract principle of democracy or Americanism. If it be offered in defense that New England or the people of any other region would in all probability have behaved exactly the same as the South, it still remains that New England or any other region would have been equally wrong.

If it be said that there is no record of any other peoples being successful in a compound bi-racial civilization and that race prejudice is as old as civilization and that all the other regions of the United States discriminate against the Negro in high places and in low, that still has nothing to do with the obligation of the South and the Nation to work jointly toward the amelioration of conditions. If it be said that the other regions of the Nation should study and plan for the improvement of their own situations and unfair practices, the answer would be that they are doing just that, which adds to the South's obligation to do its part.

On the other hand, since the job is one for all the Nation as well as for the South, it must be apparent that the Nation's part is also a two-way task. If, as is clear, the Nation is assuming increasing responsibility in its attitude and action toward the southern part of the problem, there are two sides to this. It is not only that the Nation's conscience is troubled over the vast injustices in the South and the verdict is that the Nation must do something about it. It is also that there is the equal responsibility for the Nation to understand the total situation, to participate in its working out on the levels of American democratic government, and plan with the South in terms of attainable reality. The Nation must surely know the nature of the problem and understand how the way of the South is the way of Nature with all her powerful conditioning forces; the way of the frontier and the folk with their loyalties and patriotism for causes for which they, both white and Negro, are willing to die; the way of religion and race, more powerful than all abstract moralities; and the way of culture and of America and of history through which the way of the South has been interwoven in the total fabric of the Nation and of the Nation in the fabric of the South.

There is another way in which the Nation's part is a two-way approach. If it is said that the Nation cannot face the world of nations and their search for global democracy unless it can forthwith reshape its own undemocratic procedures, it must be said also that America cannot lead the nations of the world toward abiding peace and fellowship through organization if it cannot prevent violent revolution and civil war within its own races and regions. The fact that there are wrongs to be righted is no license to right them through fighting and war again, especially since these wrongs are of the same sort, only less complicated and often less extensive, as the wrongs and tragedies of the rest of the world. Some of the movements, attitudes, and activities, both North and South, within these threatening shadows over America, have come close to treason in time of war; they can bring on new war when peace has come. America can adopt the procedures of planning and interregional and interracial organization and cooperation and be ready to join with the world in international organization and coöperation for peace. Or America can join the conflicting nations and races in perpetual warfare and violence and lose its place in the leadership of the world of international organization for peace. This problem is no more a one-way obligation in the United States, with its opportunity for interregional and interracial balance than are the obligations of nations and races and folk in tragedy and travail the world over.

That's how important the problem is. That's how near America comes to crisis. That's why the shadows over America grow. That's why the supreme task, for the way of the South and for the way of the Nation is found in the problem of the regional quality and balance of America. That's why there is no other way to achieve the desired and attainable standards other than through complete coöperative State, regional, and national planning under the auspices of governmental and voluntaristic programs, adopted and enacted through the consent of the people and through new reaches in the effectiveness of education. The Nation has had no greater responsibility than this. The South has had no greater opportunity.

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So comes the South to a new era in the annals of America. We return to our starting point in which a new region grew up in the tutelage of Nature and of the folk seeking the promised land through the mastery of a distinctive environment. And we recapture something of the heroic story of the region with all its tragedies and hazards and its perennial problems. And we recall the sayings of the historian that to learn the life and times of an individual we have to know a lot about his background and experiences and to learn the life and times of a region we have to know a lot about that region's experiences and backgrounds. Now, we have learned a lot about this South of the United States but we have also learned a lot about the way of Nature and culture in a magnificent reality that knows no turning back and gives no special privilege to any culture and no special